

BLM Colorado Checklist for Resource Advisory Committee Fee Review

Name of Project Area: Ruby-Horsethief section of the Colorado River

BLM Project Contact Person: Katie Stevens

Position Title & Phone #: NCA Manager, (970) 244-3049

BLM Field Office: Grand Junction Field Office, CO, BLM

Briefly describe the purpose of the proposed fee and benefits to the public.

The purpose of this proposal is to establish fees for overnight camping on the Ruby-Horsethief section of the Colorado River. In conjunction with an associated permit system, this fee will provide a source of sustainable support for ongoing programs including enforcement of rules and regulations (law enforcement), native species and biological restoration¹, information and education (park ranger contacts), and campsite maintenance (primarily maintaining a naturally-appearing condition consistent with recreation setting objectives established by the Resource Management Plan for the NCA and river corridor). There is good public support for this fee, so long as the river corridor receives the benefit of the fee, with a major emphasis placed on enforcement of existing rules and regulations.

For yes or no questions where there is only one correct answer under the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), the required answer is marked with a check (✓). Be prepared to document the checked response for Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) review.

1. Are you proposing a *Special Recreation Permit Fee* in connection with the issuance of a permit for specialized recreation uses of Federal recreational lands and waters, such as group activities, recreation events, or motorized recreational vehicle use? If “yes,” Advisory Committee consultation is not required and no proposal is required. ✓ YES NO

Note: Although the fee we are proposing is connected with an individual Special Area Special Recreation Permit, we filled out the rest of this sheet for informational purposes, since the determination has been made to take this kind of fee through the NW RAC.

2. Is BLM proposing a standard or expanded amenity recreation fee regarding one of the following? Note BLM is not authorized to charge entrance fees.

☐ Standard Amenity ☐ Expanded Amenity ✓ Neither, RAC consultation not required.

¹ In this case, “restoration” means removal and treatment of non-native species (tamarisk, whitetop, purple loosestrife, and knapweed) in the riparian area and around camp sites, as opposed to biological monitoring on Federal recreational lands and waters under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for listed or candidate species (which is not allowed under REA).

3. Is the proposal for a new fee or to change an existing fee? ☒New ☐Change

4. Describe the fee proposal. Who will be charged? How much will be charged? Etc.

The fee charged will be associated with an individual Special Area Special Recreation Permit for camping in the Ruby-Horsethief section of the Colorado River. All overnight users, whether private or commercial, will be charged a set fee according to group size: \$20 for a small group (1-5), \$50 for a medium group (6-14), and \$100 for a large group (15-25).

- ☐ GROSS COLLECTIONS: Estimated Annual fee receipts. \$ 83,000
- ☐ OVERHEAD: Estimated cost of administration, overhead, collection, and indirect costs associated with the fee? \$ 10,000
- ☐ NET: Subtract *Overhead* from *Gross Collections*. \$ 73,000
- ☐ OVERHEAD PERCENTAGE: Cost of collection as a % of annual fee receipts. *Overhead* divided by *Gross Collections*. 12 %
- ☐ Is the *Overhead* percentage less than 15%? ☒YES ☐NO

5. Does BLM currently charge a fee for the site? ☐YES ☒NO

6. For a **standard amenity fee**, which one or more of the following applies?

- ☒ Not applicable.
- ☐ National Conservation Area.
- ☐ A destination visitor or interpretive center that provides a broad range of interpretive services, programs and media.
- ☐ An area that meets all of the following:
 - ☐ Significant opportunities for outdoor recreation.
 - ☐ Substantial federal investments.
 - ☐ Fees can be efficiently collected.
 - ☐ Contains all of the following amenities:
 - ☐ Designated developed parking
 - ☐ Permanent toilet facility
 - ☐ Permanent trash receptacle
 - ☐ Interpretive sign, or kiosk
 - ☐ Picnic tables
 - ☐ Security services

7. For an **expanded amenity fee**, which one or more of the following applies?

- ☒ Not applicable.
- ☐ Use of developed campgrounds that provide at least 5 of the following:
 - ☐ Tent or trailer spaces
 - ☐ Picnic tables
 - ☐ Drinking water
 - ☐ Access roads
 - ☐ Fee collection by BLM
 - ☐ Reasonable visitor protection
 - ☐ Refuse containers
 - ☐ Toilet facilities
 - ☐ Campfire containment
- ☐ Use of highly developed boat launches with specialized facilities or services.
- ☐ Cabin rentals, trail shelters, boats, stock animals, lookouts, historic structures, group day-use or overnight sites, audio tour devices, or other equipment.
- ☐ Use of hookups for electricity, cable or sewer.
- ☐ Use of sanitary dump stations.

- ☐ Participation in an enhanced interpretive program or special tour.
 - ☐ Use of reservation services.
 - ☐ Use of transportation services.
 - ☐ Use of areas where emergency first-aid services are provided from staffed facilities.
 - ☐ Use of developed swimming sites that provide at least 4 of the following:
 - ☐ Showers and flush toilets
 - ☐ Refuse containers.
 - ☐ Picnic areas
 - ☐ Paved parking
 - ☐ Attendants, including lifeguards
 - ☐ Floats around swimming area
 - ☐ Swimming deck
8. Is the fee commensurate with visitor benefits and services? ☒ YES ☐ NO
9. Are locally charged fees by agencies and private sector comparable? ☒ YES ☐ NO
10. Does the fee avoid nickel and diming visitors (avoids layered fees)? ☒ YES ☐ NO
11. Which of following services does BLM provide at the fee site (must check at least one)?
- ☐ Parking
 - ☐ Undesignated parking
 - ☐ Picnicking along roads or trails
12. Is the fee solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trailsides? ☐ YES ☒ NO
13. Is the fee for general access to the area? ☐ YES ☒ NO
14. Is the proposal for an entrance fee to access federal recreation areas? ☐ YES ☒ NO
15. Is the fee to access dispersed use areas with little BLM investment? ☐ YES ☒ NO
16. Is the fee for driving, walking, boating, horseback riding or hiking through federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services? ☐ YES ☒ NO
17. Is the fee for the use of overlooks or scenic pullouts? ☐ YES ☒ NO
18. Is the fee to travel over a road commonly used for travel between two places either or both of which are outside any area where recreation fees are charged? ☐ YES ☒ NO
19. Is the fee for access to any land where a person has a property right? ☐ YES ☒ NO
20. Is the fee for any person with a right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under a specific provision of law or treaty? ☐ YES ☒ NO
21. Is the fee for any person engaged in the conduct of official Federal, State, Tribal, or local government business? ☐ YES ☒ NO
22. Is the fee for special attention or services for people with disabilities? ☐ YES ☒ NO

23. For standard amenity fees only:

- a. Is the fee for any person under 16 years of age? ☐YES ☐NO
- b. Is the fee for non-commercial educational purposes? ☐YES ☐NO
- c. Is the fee for a person engaged in a non-recreational activity under a valid permit issued under other authority (e.g. valid grazing permit)? ☐YES ☐NO

24. Will at least 80% of the recreation fees be spent at the fee site? ☒YES ☐NO

25. Will the fee be accounted for separately from the amounts collected? ☒YES ☐NO

26. Will the fee be used for one or more of the following? ☒YES ☐NO

- ☒ Repair, maintenance and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, health and safety.
- ☒ Interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments and signs.
- ☒ Habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation limited to hunting, fishing, wildlife observation or photography.
- ☒ Law enforcement related to public use and recreation.
- ☒ Direct operating or capital costs associated with the recreation fee program.

27. Will the fee be used for biological monitoring on federal lands and waters under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for listed or candidate species? ☐YES ☒NO

28. Will the fee be used to pay for employee bonuses? ☐YES ☒NO

29. Will your office collect fee data and provide an Annual Report? ☒YES ☐NO

30. Have you developed a business plan to accompany the fee proposal? ☒YES ☐NO

- a. Does the business plan clearly answer the following questions and demonstrate that the fee is consistent with these criteria? ☒YES ☐NO
 - ☐ Are the fees proportionate to the benefits and services provided to the visitor?
 - ☐ What is the aggregate effect of fee on recreation users and service providers?
 - ☐ How is the fee comparable to fees charged by other public agencies and nearby private sector operators?
 - ☐ What are the public policy or management objectives served by the fee?
 - ☐ How does the fee avoid the collection of multiple or layered recreation fees for similar uses, activities, or programs?
- b. Have you attached pictures of the site? ☒YES ☐NO
- c. Have you attached a map showing boundaries and amenities? ☒YES ☐NO

- d. Did you provide a general description of the setting and site (natural resources, natural features, scenic values, recreational attractions, amenities, current/projected visitation, etc.)? ☒YES ☐NO
- e. Public notice, proposal publication, and communication plan? ☒YES ☐NO

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